

Martin Luther King, Jr. is considered by many to be one of the most influential men in recent history. He achieved this status through his insistence that nonviolent means should be used to achieve racial and economic justice. King changed America, and the world, forever with his "I Have a Dream" speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. He also influenced the struggle for freedom in South Africa, his work serving as an inspiration for Nobel Peace prize winner Albert Lutuli, who fought for racial justice in this country.

A black and white photograph of a man in a suit and tie, waving his right hand. He has a mustache and is looking directly at the camera. The image is grainy and appears to be a reproduction from a newspaper or magazine.

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Date of Birth: 22 April 2011 Date of Entry: 22 March 2011

**I hereby certify that the attached essay is my original work.**

Student's Signature: 

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## Rules

- Closing date for entries: **31 March 2011**
- Open to all 12 - 18 year-old learners (students)
- Must be the original work of the entrant
- Maximum length is 2 pages
- Illegible entries will be disqualified
- No late entries will be accepted and the judges' decision is final
- This entry form should be attached to your essay
- Your signature is required

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**Entries may also be dropped off at:**

- Rosa Parks Library, Soweto
- Mae Jamison Science Reading Room, Mamelodi
- Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban Information Resource Centers
- USinfo@Central, Cape Town Central Library
- Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg American Corners



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\* These libraries are at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria and the U.S. Consulates General in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. For more information, visit <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/naahm2011.html>

**To research your topic, visit one of the libraries mentioned above, or your school - or public library.**

# My Dream For South Africa

## Essay Competition

3/20/2011

Mikhail Hendricks

## **MY DREAM FOR SOUTH AFRICA**

**Not too long ago the world was inspired by a great man called Dr Martin Luther King Jr., who shared his dream for his country with the world in the form of an enticing speech, from start to finish. Then not too long after that, the world heard many other great men and woman call for freedom and peace in their very own beautiful lands, amongst them being the likes of Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Kofi Annan, and Aunt San Sue Kyi, to name just a few. These great men and woman expressed not only their hatred for then unjust systems, but also their dreams and aspirations for their respective countries. Now as the times are passing by and the time is nearing for current leaders to hand over the leadership roles to a new generation of which I am a part of, I think it is time to share my dream for my beautiful South Africa, with the world.**

**I start off to sing the tune of education, where each and every child and adult is receiving an education of some sort. I dream for a South Africa where the education system of the land instills, a hunger of learning in all learners, and also encourage and promotes lifelong learning. Our learning institutions must be ranked amongst the best in the world, our institutional heads must always seek to improve the standards of their various institutions. We as a nation must be at the leading edge of education.**

**I dream for a South Africa that appreciates the 'laborer', a South Africa with no hierarchy when it comes to its workers, where the 3<sup>rd</sup> class hard working man will be seen in no different light than the 1<sup>st</sup> class 'rich' man, a place where a person is chosen because of his abilities not of his skin color, his DNA nor his social connections.**

**I dream for a South Africa that cares for its natural environment, where the 'average' person will take action against anyone harming, our countries natural surroundings. Let our actions against these**

**unscrupulous men and women move a step further, from action campaigns; to taking real action and ensuring they face the full might of the law. This will not only preserve our natural surroundings for future generations, but also show a sense of our national pride.**

**Continuing on the point of national pride, I dream of a South Africa where each and every South African is an ambassador of our country. Where we will collectively change negative perceptions of OUR country, and promote only the positive to the world. We can do this by always extending a warm hand of welcome to foreign visitors, going to foreign countries with the thought in mind that you as an individual are representing South Africa.**

**A South Africa where a sporting culture will be developed, and which will produce some of the best sporting men and woman in the world. We as a country know the unifying powers of sport, and it is something that I hope we can and will continue. A dream of mine for the near future of South Africa is for it to successfully bid and host the Summer Olympics, with the successful hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, South Africa's hosting abilities should never be called into question, ever again.**

**The successful hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup could not have been possible if there was not a common unity amongst South Africans, it is more of that type of unity that I see in my dream for South Africa.**

**The judicial system of South Africa in my opinion is in a dire state, in the South Africa in which I dream of; the judicial system will be independent from any other agency, including high powers in government. A judge will make decisions based solely on what is laid before him/her, and may not be influenced by higher powers. It will be a system in which all South Africans will put their faith in. It is fact that South Africa has one the fairest constitutions in the world, right now the very basics of that constitution is not being adhered to, and in**

**the South Africa of which I dream of the Constitution will 'truly' be the highest power in the land and will not tolerate any form of corrupt activities from any one.**

**A news bulletin would not be complete without the report of the exposure of a corrupt government official. Well in the South Africa of which I dream, there will be no place for any form of corruption.**

**A country with morals! This is how I would want South Africa to be known by the international community, and most importantly by its very own people. These morals will be set forth and guarded by the constitution. These morals will apply to each and every citizen of this beautiful land, whether it be a high ranking government official, or just an ordinary citizen, these morals will at all times be put to task.**

**In the South Africa of which I dream I want the poor, poverty stricken family to feel as much part of this country as any other class of family. My dream for South Africa is that it will become a country that cares for those less fortunate, where it will be one of governments' top priorities to care for the poor, needy and the elderly. And also where each and every South African will make a concerted effort to help those less fortunate, and not just expect such action from government.**

**In the South Africa that I dream of there will be no youngster without a decent job. The unemployment figures shall be amongst the lowest in the world, and the minimum wage shall be regarded as a deserving, and honorable figure, whether it be the wage of a farm worker, cashier or the cleaner in the modern office building.**

**How do I plan to achieve all this? Firstly what I feel I need to point out is the fact that I will never be able to achieve this on my own. The only way this dream of mine will ever be able to see the day of light, is if each and every citizen of this great nation start to realize that it starts with you. It starts with each and every person as an individual.**

**You can start off by looking at problems in your community, form coalitions with other members of your community and start to plan on how you intend on helping your own communities. And the best part of it all is the fact that it does not have to end there, after you see that you have reached your goals in your communities, spread out to other communities and encourage the members of that community to come together as one and try and bring order to their various communities.**

**To achieve this dream that I have for South Africa it is also going need government to step in and take action towards achieving this dream. Government can start by rooting out all corruption, create more jobs, distribute jobs to those that are capable of doing it properly and Government must start delivering on its promises.**

**It would be wise to take into realization that South Africa is still a very young democracy, and to hide away all pride and ask other members of the international community with much older democracies such as America, for guidance and a few tips to achieve my dream for South Africa would do no one any harm.**

**I know it won't be an easy task, I know it is going to take a lot more than money, I know it has to start with me, but what I also know is that it can be achieved!**

**This is my dream for South Africa...**

**(1 333 WORDS)**